

Senator BUMPERS, our colleague in the Senate, is truly one of the great orators of this institution and one of the most passionate voices who has ever served in the U.S. Senate. And, of course, our President, William Clinton.

But for all of those wonderful politicians who have served the State of Arkansas, DAVID PRYOR remains by all accounts the most popular and the most beloved politician in all of Arkansas. This is certainly no accident, because throughout his career in politics, from the House of Representatives to the Arkansas Governor's mansion to the U.S. Senate, DAVID PRYOR never forgot where he came from and he never lost touch with the people who elected him.

Our colleague, DALE BUMPERS, said of DAVID PRYOR that he personifies "the nobility of public service." Mr. President, I could not agree more.

As a freshman Senator in 1979, DAVID sent his Senate staff back to Arkansas to work alongside their constituents to learn firsthand the concerns of Arkansans, and as a young House Member he investigated nursing homes by donning an orderly's uniform and going undercover into nursing homes. That subterfuge is one of many burdens DAVID PRYOR took on for our Nation's elderly.

Throughout his hard work, he helped establish the Special Committee on Aging. And he never stopped fighting to keep drug prices down for elderly patients. DAVID and I didn't always see eye to eye on this issue. In fact, we disagreed on this particular question. But our policy differences never resulted in personal differences. Most importantly, they never got in the way of our friendship and genuine affection for each other.

DAVID PRYOR has also long been a tireless advocate for American taxpayers, working from his position on the Senate Finance Committee to smooth relations between the Internal Revenue Service and taxpayers.

Here in the U.S. Senate he has worked as hard as any Member to encourage civility and a family-friendly atmosphere. Time limits on votes and recess schedules remain a lasting part of his senatorial legacy.

But, most of all, DAVID PRYOR brought a quiet humility and gentle demeanor to a place that too often is known for its sharp elbows and short tempers. He has earned the respect and admiration of both Republicans and Democrats, which is no easy feat in this day and age.

I doubt there is a Member who isn't genuinely saddened to see DAVID PRYOR leave the U.S. Senate. He personifies all that we must continue to strive for as politicians and lawmakers, and as national leaders.

For myself and all of those whose lives he has touched and for all of those in this Chamber, he will be sorely missed. I wish he and Barbara a happy and healthy and busy retirement.

RETIRING MEMBERS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we are coming to the end of an interesting Congress. It has been a contentious one. We have had a lot of difficulties among various colleagues here. We have had some awful battles, but by and large it has been a Congress of great capacity, a Congress of great accomplishment.

I personally want to express appreciation to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for being able to work together as well as we have and being able to accomplish all the good things we have accomplished. I also want to pay tribute to all of those who are now about to leave the Congress of the United States and in particular, the U.S. Senate.

We have had a remarkable group of people serving with us in the U.S. Senate who are leaving this year, and I, for one, will miss each and every one of them. I wish my colleagues the best in the upcoming election.

SENATOR J. BENNETT JOHNSTON

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, let me also today pay tribute to a great Senator and a close and dear friend from the State of Louisiana, J. BENNETT JOHNSTON.

BENNETT JOHNSTON has served his beloved State of Louisiana for the past 32 years. He began his life in politics in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1964, and went on to the Louisiana Senate in 1968, and in 1972 he became a Member of the U.S. Senate, where he has served with great distinction and honor for the past 24 years.

As much as any man or woman in this body, BENNETT JOHNSTON truly understands the critical importance of compromise, bipartisanship, and working across party lines. He always embraced the opportunity to engage an opponent rather than tear them down, and by doing so he has made the Senate a more civil place in which to serve.

I think the words of our former colleague, Russell Long, best described BENNETT JOHNSTON's tenure. Russell Long said, "No other Member of the Senate has accomplished more for the people he represents. No State in the Union has had a more faithful servant nor a more powerful advocate than Louisiana has had in BENNETT JOHNSTON."

BENNETT JOHNSTON was always looking out for the people and the best interests of the people of Louisiana. He became an expert on issues that make many Senators' eyes glaze over with the mere mention of the subject matter. But they were vitally critical to his State's future: wetlands issues, national defense, and energy policy.

For his home State of Louisiana, BENNETT JOHNSTON worked to improve educational opportunities and helped to provide funds for new research facilities, better interstate highways,

new ports, levies, and three national parks.

His knowledge of the minutia of energy issues, his skill at crafting coalitions, and his tireless efforts shepherded one of the most comprehensive energy-related measures through the U.S. Senate in 1992. That bill remains one of the most important achievements of the 102d Congress, and it is a fitting legacy to BENNETT JOHNSTON's tenure in the U.S. Senate.

When he announced his retirement from this body, he didn't use it as an opportunity to attack the Senate or to decry his service here, but instead to reaffirm his commitment to the principles and values of this institution, and of public service.

I would like to quote from his own statement on the day he announced his retirement. He said, "Politics and public service are synonymous with the pursuit of public office. It is a high calling in our society. It is the best opportunity for helping your State, your country, and your fellow man. The Senate, with its faults and criticisms, remains the bulwark of our democracy, and a hallowed institution. I will stand up for it, will not bash it, and will defend it against those who do."

Those words, I think, Mr. President, stand in sharp contrast to the voices of cynicism that we often hear not only in this town but also, frankly, too often in this Chamber. They are the words of a man who loves the U.S. Senate and who treasures the opportunity to serve his State and his country.

To BENNETT JOHNSTON and his wife, Mary, and their family, I wish them Godspeed and the best wishes in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE JUDGE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to those of my colleagues in paying tribute to our distinguished and venerable colleague, the Judge, Senator HOWELL HEFLIN.

I've had the great honor to serve—and here on the floor of the Senate, to sit alongside the Judge from Alabama—throughout my entire tenure as a U.S. Senator.

Mr. President, HOWELL HEFLIN brought integrity, character, virtue and his folksy Southern humor to a body that is often devoid of such characteristics. What's more, his life has been consistently marked by a constant, single-minded devotion to public service and the love of his country.

During WWII, like many of his contemporaries, he answered the call of his Nation and enlisted in the Marine Corps. In the process, he became a bonafide war hero.

Lt. HOWELL HEFLIN joined in the initial assault to liberate the island of Guam from its Japanese occupiers. He was wounded twice and spent considerable time recovering in stateside hospitals. For his bravery, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star.